

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 17, and 18 are the subject of examination in this application. Claims 6-16 are withdrawn / from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 17 are independent.

Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the interview granted to their representative, Michael R. Cammarata, by Examiner Javid A. Amini and SPE Jeffrey Brier. This interview was conducted on April 5, 2005 and was conducted in person.

During the interview, claim amendments were discussed, primarily those to independent claim 1. In addition, new claim 17 was also briefly discussed during the interview. The amendments presented herein are consistent with those made during the interview but with some slight adjustments made according to the results and discussions during that interview. Most particularly, the "input device" of claim 1 has been amended to recite a "first device" to allay the Examiner's concerns that a monitor does not qualify as an input device. Although there is specification support for this correspondence

Applicants felt it better to broaden this part of the claim with the amendment described above.

The Examiner's initial impression of the proposed amendments was quite favorable and they indicated that these amendments more accurately and clearly define the invention. Applicant's representative also presented arguments against the Stokes and Spaulding Patents which arguments are generally reflected below. No agreement was reached on the prior art rejections particularly because this case is after final rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the term "input device" has been changed to "first device." This was discussed during the interview and Applicants believe that this broadening amendment resolves the 112, second paragraph rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes in view of Spaulding. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Stokes discloses a method for the analytic generation of multidimensional color lookup tables. By measuring color samples, Stokes is able to utilize an analytical model to create a multidimensional lookup table for color matching. As described in column 3, a detector may be incorporated into a printer such that the color characterization may be performed on a printed test target of sample colors. The analytical model is then created for that particular printer. The resulting multidimensional lookup table produced by Stokes necessarily includes a very large amount of data which is one disadvantage of the prior art that the inventive color characteristic description apparatus is seeking to avoid.

More particularly, Stokes fails to disclose or suggest a characteristic point lookup table associated with and describing color characteristics of a first device inputting the supplied image, the characteristic point lookup table to be developed into a multidimensional lookup table of greater data volume than the characteristic point lookup table. Again, Stokes is limited

to an analytical model for creating a multidimensional lookup table. Stokes' multidimensional lookup table does not disclose or suggest the use or creation of a characteristic point lookup table to create a multidimensional lookup table. Recall that the characteristic points are points in which a function relating the supplied image signals with the output image data have a discontinuity such as the characteristic points are determined to be impossible to be accurately developed in a table development method which is later performed when the lookup table is developed into the multidimensional lookup table.

As discussed during the interview, the characteristic point lookup table has a data volume much less than the multidimensional lookup table. The characteristic points are representative points that indicate the relationship between the supplied image signals and the output image signals but also represent a high degree of compression because the characteristic point lookup table is of a much less data volume than the multidimensional lookup table. Recall also that this characteristic point lookup table is later developed into the multidimensional lookup table with a table development method. Thus, a system according to the invention may transmit the characteristic point lookup table and an identifier that identifies the table development method rather than transmitting

the entire multidimensional lookup table. The multidimensional lookup table is developed from the characteristic points and the table development method that is identified by the claimed identifier. Stokes simply does not disclose or suggest any such apparatus, particularly as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Furthermore, Spaulding fails to remedy any of the noted deficiencies in Stokes. Indeed, Spaulding merely utilizes a set of predetermined color transforms 32 which may be selected and adjusted by a user via slide bars such as those shown in Figs. 4, 5, and 7. These slide bars or knobs provide weighting parameters that are utilized to combine the various predetermined color transforms in the transform combiner 33. The transform combiner 33 may also interpolate between the predetermined transforms to form an interpolated transform 34 that is utilized to adjust the image. It is noted that this interpolation is between predetermined transforms.

Because neither Stokes nor Spaulding teaches or suggests the features discussed above, the combination of these two patents also fails to disclose or suggest the invention. Therefore, the Section 103 Stokes-Spaulding rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2, 4, and 5 are considered patentable at least because of their dependency upon independent claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.


Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael R. Cammarata (Reg. No. 39,491) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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